

Picturing America Initiative Brings Great American Art Directly to Classrooms and Libraries

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has given 86 Picturing America awards to schools and libraries within New York's 22nd Congressional District. Picturing America is a free initiative that helps teach American history and culture by bringing some of the country's great art directly to classrooms and libraries.

"I am very pleased that 86 of our local schools and libraries will be receiving replicas of great pieces of American art to proudly display as part of an effort to enhance the learning experience for our young people," Hinchey said. "The Picturing America program provides a wonderful opportunity to engage students in the study of American history, art, and politics. I encourage all school districts and libraries in New York to apply for these beautiful replicas when the award program begins taking applications again later this year."

In New York's 22nd Congressional District, 86 institutions have been awarded Picturing America. They join the over 26,000 schools and public libraries across the country that will participate in the program. Successful applicants will receive 40 large, high-quality reproductions of great American art and a comprehensive teachers resource book to assist educators using the works of art in core subjects. Delivery of these materials is scheduled for August 2008. The schools and libraries in New York's 22nd Congressional District receiving the awards are located in: Accord, Apalachin, Binghamton, Conklin, Eldred, Endicott, Fallsburg, Glen Spey, Grahamsville, Hancock, Hankins, Harris, Highland, Ithaca, Jeffersonville, Kiamesha Lake, Kingston, Kirkwood, Lake Huntington, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Marlboro, Middletown, Milford, Monticello, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Roscoe, Saugerties, Vestal, Wallkill, Waverly, White Lake, Windsor, and Wurtsboro.

The NEH will offer Picturing America to more schools and libraries through a future enrollment opportunity beginning in August 2008. All eligible schools and public libraries in the U.S. and its territories who have not previously received Picturing America may apply for the program from August 4 through October 31, 2008 at PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

In addition to schools and libraries, through an interagency agreement, NEH and the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work together to make Picturing America available to the 20,000 Head Start centers around the nation. This partnership will provide for the development of materials to supplement Picturing America and ensure that the program will enhance early childhood development and family literacy. Picturing America is distributed by the NEH in cooperation with the American Library Association.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. The study of the humanities — history, literature, philosophy, and the arts — helps us explore what it means to be human. The humanities enable us to understand the world and our place in it.